

Atty. Docket No. POU920010173US1

Serial No. 10/043,489

REMARKSAmendments to the Specification

Applicants have amended a typo in paragraph [0006] of the present specification.

Amendments to the Claims

The examiner rejected the presently pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,621 to Lee et al. ("Lee") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,046,989 to Takahashi.

There are fundamental differences between Lee and the presently claimed invention. First, Lee doesn't teach assigning an address at all. All the addresses in the Lee patent are pre-assigned and are not obtained from a fabric as in the presently claimed invention. What happens in the Lee patent is that a new control command containing the IP multicast address is sent to the device driver (col 6, lines 11-15). The platform receiving the packet (i.e. the platform containing the device driver) then registers the address with the LAN adapter and the address is added to routing tables. This address is not assigned by the LAN or any fabric, it is merely received by the LAN adapter and stored.

Also, Lee doesn't teach releasing an address back to the fabric for another use, as the presently claimed invention does. What happens in the Lee patent is that the IP multicast address that was registered with the LAN adapter is unregistered. As opposed to the present invention, this address is NOT available for other use by a fabric because it still belongs to the partition, where it was originally generated. The fabric cannot use the address for any other partition as in the presently claimed invention.

Atty. Docket No. POU920010173US1

Serial No. 10/043,489

Accordingly, claims 1, 9, and 20, have been amended to read, in part, as follows:

.. . checking the address to be removed with a table of active addresses to determine if the address to be removed is an active address, the table of active addresses containing addresses generated and assigned to partitions by the fabric in response to address assignment requests from the partitions;

changing the status of the address to be removed from active to inactive, thereby allowing the inactivated address to be reassigned by the fabric to the same or another partition address assignment that requests an . . .

Claim 12 has also been amended to reflect the fundamental differences, as explained above, between Lee and the present invention as follows:

... a channel adapter communicating between the partitions and the fabric via a channel adapter wherein each partition has an assigned address that was assigned to it by the fabric in response to the partition's request for an address assignment;

said channel adapter sending a logout command to the fabric, the logout command including an address to be removed;

a table in said fabric for registering addresses that the fabric generated and assigned to said channel adapter, said fabric checking the address to be removed with said table to determine if the address to be removed is an active address;

said fabric changing the status of the address to be removed from active to inactive, thereby allowing the inactivated address to be reassigned by the fabric to the same or another partition that requests an address assignment; . . .

Atty. Docket No. POU920010173US1

Serial No. 10/043,489

All the presently submitted claim amendments are supported in the present patent application at least by the following paragraphs and figures:

[0030] Fig. 2 is a flow diagram of the procedure followed by the N_Port 106 of a fibre channel to obtain an N_Port address SID from the fabric 110 . . . If at 201, this is the first address for the N_Port 106, a Fabric Login extended link service (FLOGI ELS) command is issued to the fabric 110. The FLOGI ELS command includes an identification for the partition 102 requesting the address, and has a source address of all zeros to indicate to the fabric 110 that an N_Port address identifier is being requested. At 203, the address assigned by the Fabric 110 is received. The FLOGI command is sent in this embodiment on behalf of the first partition 102 requesting an address. [Emphasis Added]

[0042] If the fabric subsequently receives a request from the adapter 104 for a new SID after it has been removed, the fabric may reassign any unused LPAR SID to the adapter 104, or it may reassign the same (if currently not assigned elsewhere) SID previously removed by the LOGO ELS.

Hence, all the presently pending independent claims, and claims depending therefrom, recite fundamental differences between the present invention and Lee.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have properly accommodated each of the examiner's grounds for rejection, as explained above. Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

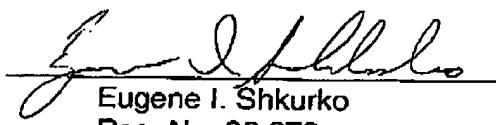
Atty. Docket No. POU920010173US1

Serial No. 10/043,489

If the Examiner has any questions or believes further discussion will aid examination and advance prosecution of the application, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

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